other major FCV tobacco producing countries for the last three years is as under :

Country	Average yield : kgs/per acre 1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (prov.)
India	409	416	409
Brazil	754	722	723
Canada	1018	1040	1044
USA	1069	896	996
Zimbabwe	1004	1066	988

(b) Steps taken to enhance production and productivity of tobacco, *inter-alia*, include :

(i) Providing financial assistance for use of approved seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation equipments, suckercides and roof insulation of barns;

(ii) Supply of tarpaulin at subsidised rates for storage of cured leaf;

(iii) Co-ordination with Central Tobacco Research Institute for evolving high yielding disease resistant varieties;

(iv) Supply of coal for curing of tobacco;

(v) Conduct analysis of soil and water samples to advice farmers on its suitability for growing tobacco, and

(vi) Imparting training to farmers on improved package of practices.

Writting Off of Bad Debt

5665. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have written off crores of rupees in the public sector banks that have been lost by the banks over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, bank-wise, together with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a budget provision for the year 1996-97 has been made to make up the losses of such banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds distributed so far, bank-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Government had permitted in 1994-95 and 1995-96 the following nationalised banks to write off their accumulated losses against paid-up capital. In the case of Punjab National Bank (PNB), with the merger of Erstwhile New Bank of India (ENBI), the uncovered accumulated losses of ENBI as on the date of merger were set off against the capital of PNB. In the case of Bank of India and Dena Bank, they were allowed to set off their losses to enable them to clean up their balance-sheets for accessing the market for mobilising resources.

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Amount allowed to be written off (Rs. in crores)
1.	Punjab National Bank	425.43
2.	Bank of India	1369.91
3.	Dena Bank	136.29

(c) and (d). A Budget Provision of Rs. 1532 crores has been made during the year 1996-97 for writing off accumulated losses of Vijaya Bank, Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank. No funds have been sanctioned so far during 1996-97.

Declaration of Assets

5666. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for candidates to declare their assets before filing their nomination papers for election to Parliament and State Legislatures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such a legislation is likely to be brought before parliament; and

(d) the steps the Government have taken so far for checking corruption among the elected representatives of the people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The proposed Lokpal Bill, 1996 would be a measure to check corruption.

Registration of Patent

5667. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of patents registered on an average in a year in the country ;

(b) the number of patents registered during each of last three years; and

(c) the number of patents de-registered during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The number of patents registered (granted) on an average in a year in the country during the last 10 years is 1898.

(b) The number of patents registered (granted) during the last three years is as under :

Year	No. of patent registered
1993-94	1746
1994-95	1759
1995-96	1533

(c) During last three years, one patent, namely, Patent number 168950 entitled "method of producing transformed cotton cells by tissue culture" was de-registered/revoked in public interest under the powers vested in Central Government by virtue of provisions of Section 66 of the Patents Act, 1970.

Mishra Committee and Manmohan Committee

5668. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mishra Committee and Manmohan Committee set up for small scale industries have made many recommendations;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by each Committee; and

(c) the details of recommendations accepted by the Government and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Government is not aware of such Committees set up for small scale industries.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Garment Export Quota

5669. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3586 on August, 19, 1994 and state :

(a) whether final report regarding investigation by C.B.I. has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken and a law suit would be filed against the culprits ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The final decision would be taken in the case only after completion of the investigation.

Export of Snake Skin

5670. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of snake skin exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise ;

(b) the details of the policy for exporting snake skin; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the lives of habitants from snake-bite deaths particularly in the flood prone areas of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). As per the provisions of the current Export and Import Policy (1992-97), export of all forms of wild animals including their parts and products are prohibited. Snakes are covered under the definition of wild animals, hence, export of the same in any form is prohibited.

(c) As per available information Snake bite treatment is available in the Primary Health Centres. A referral system is also available in the rural areas to send such cases to the nearby community Health Centre or to the District Hospital for urgent treatment.

Financing of Private Plantation by NABARD

5671. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of NABARD in the matter of financing private plantation/forestry of commercial nature such as teakwood; and

(b) the details of the norms followed for financing the private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides, *inter-alia*, refinance assistance to banks for financing plantation/forestry projects including teak wood plantations. However, NABARD has reported that it has so far not received any project for teak wood plantation in the private sector for sanction.

(b) The type of private sector forestry schemes eligible for refinance from NABARD are, as follows :

(i) Forestry plantations on wastelands which are in conformity with the national forest policy;